Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An implant for insertion between vertebrae of a spinal column comprising:

a) at least two implant parts comprising:

i) a first implant part; and

ii) a second implant part wherein said first and said second implant parts are axially adjustable relative to each other to change a length of the implant along a longitudinal axis of the implant; and

b) a joining plate that can be releasably connected with a free end of at least one of said at least two implant parts in a substantially perpendicular alignment relative to said

longitudinal axis of the implant, wherein the implant can be inserted between vertebrae of a spinal column as a substitute for disks, vertebrae or parts of vertebrae removed from a spinal column, wherein said joining plate is configured in a star shaped manner; and

wherein said joining plate has an opening formed in said joining plate for releasable attachment of said joining plate wherein said opening is configured to lie outside of a center of gravity of said joining plate.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a thickness that corresponds to between 2% and 30% of a height of at least one of said at least two implant parts.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate projects beyond an outside contour of said implant.

4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein a shape of said opening is adapted to an outside contour of said implant.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said opening is positioned to be in a center of gravity of said joining plate.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein a surface of said joining plate that faces a vertebrae is shaped as a convex dome.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a means for attachment and is attached to at least one of said at least two implant parts.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 9, further comprising a catch seat wherein said means for attachment is formed by a plug-in connection formed between said joining plate and at least one of said at least two implant parts.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 10, wherein said means for attachment is formed by a bayonet closure.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 9, wherein said means for attachment comprises a groove formed in a free end of said at least one of said at least two implant part; and further comprising a spring mounted in a groove in an opening formed in said joining plate.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 12, further comprising a plurality of mandrels or cutting blades coupled to a side of said joining plate that faces a vertebra.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 3, wherein said joining plate is formed as a polygon.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 3, wherein said joining plate is configured in a rounded manner.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 3, wherein said joining plate has a passage opening.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 17, wherein said joining plate has a plurality of passage openings.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 18, wherein at least one of said plurality of passage openings extends to an outer edge of said joining plate.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 18, wherein said joining plate has a plurality of plate ridges disposed around said plurality of passage openings on said joining plate.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 20, wherein said plurality of plate ridges on said joining plate are coupled to each other at a free end of said plurality of plate ridges to form an edge of said joining plate.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 21, further comprising a rotatable threaded ring coupled to said second implant part, and wherein said first implant part has threads which engage with a set of threads in said rotatable threaded ring, wherein said rotatable threaded ring has a bevel wheel gearing.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a side that faces the vertebrae and is orientated at an incline to said longitudinal axis.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 1, wherein said joining plate has a side that faces said at least two implant parts and is orientated at an incline to a longitudinal axis.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 24, wherein an angle of said incline of said joining plate is between 3 degrees and 45 degrees.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 23, wherein said joining plate has a rotational position that can

be fixed in place about a longitudinal axis relative to said at least two implant parts.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The implant as in claim 26, further comprising a plurality of catch seats formed between said joining plate and said at least two implant parts in a circumferential direction, in step widths from between 10 degrees to 45 degrees.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An implant for insertion between vertebrae of a spinal column comprising:

a) at least two implant parts comprising:

i) a first implant part; and

ii) a second implant part wherein said first and said second implant parts are axially adjustable relative to each other to change a length of the implant along a longitudinal axis of the implant; and

b) a joining plate that can be releasably connected with a free end of at least one of said at least two implant parts in a substantially perpendicular alignment relative to said longitudinal axis of the implant, wherein the implant can be inserted between vertebrae of a spinal column as a substitute for disks, vertebrae or parts of vertebrae removed from a spinal column wherein said joining plate has a means for attachment and is attached to at least one of said at least two implant parts wherein said means for attachment is formed by a plug-in connection formed between said joining plate and at least one of said at least two implant parts~~,~~ and wherein said joining plate is configured in a star shaped manner.

a catch seat formed on a free end of at least one of said implant parts.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): An implant for insertion between vertebrae of a spinal column comprising:

a) at least two implant parts comprising:

i) a first implant part; and

ii) a second implant part wherein said first and said second implant parts are axially adjustable relative to each other to change a length of the implant along a longitudinal axis of the implant; and

b) a joining plate that can be releasably connected with a free end of at least one of said at least two implant parts in a substantially perpendicular alignment relative to said longitudinal axis of the implant, wherein the implant can be inserted between vertebrae of a spinal column as a substitute for disks, vertebrae or parts of vertebrae removed from a spinal column wherein said joining plate projects beyond an outside contour of said implant wherein said joining plate has a plurality of passage openings and wherein at least one of said plurality of passage openings extends to an outer edge of said joining plate~~.~~, wherein said joining plate is configured in a star-shaped manner for forming a sharp separating plane between a vertebrae and the implant for facilitating an osseous connection between the vertebrae and the implant.